Workers and Soldiers, signed by Chkheidze, the head of the S-D group in the Duma.[1]

March 15 was a day of universal jubilation in Irkutsk. Meetings were held on street corners. Crowds with red flags marched in the streets to the tunes of revolutionary hymns. The police disappeared. The citizens themselves maintained order. During that day a score of labor unions were founded, and all political parties formed local chapters to elect representatives to the Citizens' Committee. In the evening the Committee convened in the Municipal Hall. Tseretelli was elected its chairman. Telegrams from Petrograd, mutual congratulations . . . delegations claiming seats in the Committee. . . . The delegation of the Orthodox Church was particularly impressive. Speaking for twenty-four parishes, it asked for forty-eight seats in the Committee but was satisfied when the chair recognized the clergy as a professional group and assigned them one seat, along with one seat to the lawyers, one to the physicians, and one to the teachers. After midnight the regiments located around Irkutsk converged on the Municipal Building to express their devotion to the revolution and their loyalty to the Citizens' Committee.

The next morning we received a telegram from the new Minister of Justice, announcing amnesty for all political prisoners. The telegram was signed by Kerensky, chairman of the Labor Group in the last Duma.

I spent the day at the local jail, supervising the release of political prisoners. Shelter was to be provided for them. Some twenty Anarchists asked to be housed together, and the Citizens' Committee assigned a vacant school building to them. They at once hung out a red flag proclaiming: "Away with the war!" A rumor spread that the school building housed German spies. Soldiers from nearby barracks suggested shooting them, and others wanted to burn the school. Someone called up the Citizens' Committee. Just back from the jail, I rushed to the spot, explained to the excited crowd that the Anarchists were cranks rather than traitors, and persuaded the Anarchists to take the flag down.

That day I heard many soldiers say, "Now the power is ours!" They sounded, however, as if they were not quite sure of themselves. On March 17 a group of soldiers came to the Citizens' Committee. A young lieutenant presented their grievances. Their main demand was to demote the officers whom they did not trust and replace them by officers elected from the ranks. Facing Tseretelli, the young man

[1] I am using the Western (new style) calendar, which antedates the Russian (old style) calendar by thirteen days. The early days of March, according to the new calendar, fell at the end of February in the old-style calendar. Therefore Russian writers often describe the revolution in March (new style) as the "February Revolution."